

REMARKS

This application is a continuation application of serial no. 09/904,441, now abandoned. New claims 18 through 35 have been added, claims 1-35 are pending. Claims 1 (a self-adhesive labelstock), 6 (print carrier), 7 (face paper), 9 (a method for making a face paper), 18 (a self-adhesive labelstock), 25 (a method for making a shelf-adhesive face paper), 29 (face paper) and 32 (a method for making a self-adhesive labelstock) are the pending independent claims with this amendment.

In the parent hereto, the Examiner rejected the claims based upon two references: an abstract of JP 55129475 and United States Patent No. 4,258,092 to Labar. Neither reference alone or in combination render the claims unpatentable.

The Problem Solved By Applicant

Prior to the invention, known self-adhesive labelstocks were not suitable for different printing methods. Several products have been needed for desired printing methods. See specification page 1, line 24-26. The references cited and applied in the parent application do not address this problem, nor do they solve it.

As stated in the specification,

The invention is based on the surprising observation that paper made of chemical pulp which paper has been dried by pressing it over a long distance against a smooth surface is suitable for many printing methods: flexographic, letterpress, offset, screen, injet and heat transfer printing, electrophotography, ionography and magnetography. Specification at page 3, lines 11-14.

The specification also states,

When the fibre beating rate used for paper manufacture is optimal (SR 20-40), and when the wet web made from this fibre is pressed against a hot smooth surface, the contact surface of the fibre mesh dries to match the smoothness and form of the hot smooth surface. Specification, lines 21-24.

The fact that the machined surface of the facestock is not covered with an adhesive layer

and applicant utilizes chemical pulp as described in the specification clearly distinguishes the claims from the references. As will be seen from the discussion below, the references either alone or in combination do not suggest the claimed invention.

The References Applied In the Parent Application Do Not Suggest The Claimed Invention.

(1) JP abstract 55129475

JP abstract 55129475 describes a labelstock with one face glazed. A release coating is applied to the glazed surface so as to reduce the amount of release coating used or to facilitate the application of an adhesive layer to the paper. *The important point is, however, that the surface of the paper which is glazed receives or supports the adhesive layer. In the instant invention, it is just the opposite. The adhesive layer is NOT on the outer surface which is to be printed.*

(2) United States Patent No. 4,258,092 to Labar

The '092 patent to Labar describes a release liner (as opposed to a printable facestock) which is machine glazed (see figure 1, reference 11). The problems that Labar addresses are as to release liners, not a facestock which is printed. Labar glazes the release liner paper so that the liner can better receive a silicone release coating (see column 4, lines 63-66) and to enhance brittleness of the release liner. See column 4, lines 42-44. These goals have nothing to do with the problem solved by applicant concerning the printability of facestock. Moreover, the machine glazed face of Labar's release liner always faces toward an adhesive layer, as opposed to facing away from the adhesive as would be required by a machined face which has been made printable as claimed in the instant application.


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Conclusion

Because the smoothed machined surface of the facestock of the instant application as claimed is not covered with an adhesive, it radically differs from the treated surfaces of the references. In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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